

Effects of solution concentration on the properties of Cu₄SnS₄ thin films.

ABSTRACT

Copper tin sulfide thin films were electrodeposited on the indium tin oxide substrate from an aqueous solution containing CuSO₄, SnCl₂ and Na₂S₂O₃ at pH 1. Deposition at various concentrations was attempted in order to study the effect of electrolytes concentration on the film properties. The thin films were characterized using X-ray diffraction and atomic force microscopy. The absorption properties, band gap energy and transition type was determined using UV-Vis Spectrophotometer. The thin films produced were polycrystalline in nature. The XRD data showed that the most intense peak is at $2\theta = 30.2^\circ$ which belongs to (221) plane of Cu₄SnS₄. The AFM images indicated that the lower concentration leads to smaller crystal size, as well as higher optical absorption values. The optimum bath composition was found to be 0.01 M for CuSO₄, Na₂S₂O₃ and SnCl₂. The band gap value was found to be 1.7 eV with indirect transition.

Keyword: Bandgap energy; Electrodeposition; Semiconducting material; Solar cells; Thin films.